

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 AGR-05 TRSE-00 EUR-12 OES-03

FEA-01 /100 W

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P 071100Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5003

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 531

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA WASHDC AH-3

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA, US

SUBJ: PGNU WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE - AUGUST 7, 1975

1. LAO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION SPOKESMAN
OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG MET PRESS AUGUST 7 TO REPORT ON AUGUST 6
PGNU CABINET MEETING. MEETING LASTED FIVE HOURS AND WAS
PRESIDED OVER BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEUAM INSISIENGMAI
AND ACTING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUNE SIPASEUTH. PRESS
CONFERENCE BEGAN 25 MINUTES LATER, EVIDENTLY BECAUSE OUDAY
WAS BEING BRIEFED ON CASE OF TWO ARRESTED THAI ATTACHES.

2. MUCH OF CABINET MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC ISSUES,
PARTICULARLY RICE AND POL. OUDAY SUMMARIZED REPORT BY
MINISTER OF ECONOMY ON RICE SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:

A. AUSTRALIA HAD SENT LAOS 2,000 TONS OF RICE; 1,800
TONS WERE IN BANGKOK AND 200 WERE IN NONG KHAI (THAI

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BORDER CITY NEAR VIENTIANE). NONG KHAI RICE HAD BEEN THERE

ONE WEEK AND PGNU WAS TRYING TO GET AUTHORIZATION FROM NONG KHAI PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES FOR ITS EXPORT TO LAOS.

B. UNITED NATIONS HAD OFFERED LAOS 4,000 TONS OF RICE. IT IS TO BE BOUGHT BY PGNU WITH 700,000 DOLLARS GIVEN IT BY UN. PGNU HAS CONTACTED RTG FOR AUTHORIZATION TO BUY THIS RICE IN THAILAND AND WAS AWAITING RTG'S ANSWER "WITH IMPATIENCE."

C. CHINA HAD OFFERED LAOS 10,000 TONS OF RICE WHICH WAS ALREADY IN HAIPHONG. HOWEVER, IT COULD NOT BE SHIPPED AT PRESENT BECAUSE OF STATE OF ROADS BETWEEN VIET-NAM AND LAOS AND WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT ONSET OF DRY SEASON.

D. PGNU WAS WORKING ON ARRANGEMENTS TO BUY 5 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF RICE ON CREDIT IN THAILAND. MFA HAD ASKED THAI MFA FOR AUTHORIZATION TO DO SO BUT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE.

3. POL. ACCORDING TO MINISTER OF ECONOMY:

A. CHINA HAD OFFERED LAOS 7,500 TONS OF GASOLINE AND WOULD DELIVER THIS AMOUNT TO SHELL STORAGE FACILITY AT HONG KONG. PGNU WOULD THEN WITHDRAW SAME AMOUNT FROM SHELL FACILITY AT THANALENG (NEAR VIENTIANE).

B. SOVIET UNION HAD 8,000 TONS OF GASOLINE FOR LAOS AT SINGAPORE. ALTHOUGH SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS PAYING TRANSPORT COST, IT HAD SUGGESTED SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT, I.E., DEPOSITING GAS WITH SHELL IN SINGAPORE AND PGNU'S WITHDRAWING SAME AMOUNT AT THANALENG.

4. STAMPS. IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD, OUDAY STATED IN REPLY TO XAT LAO REPORTER'S QUESTION REGARDING 21 ORGANIZATIONS' DEMAND FOR FULL EXPLANATION OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS STAMP AFFAIR, THAT MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PTT HAD MADE ORAL REPORTS ON INCIDENT AND HAD BEEN ASKED BY CABINET TO MAKE WRITTEN REPORT.

5. THAI ATTACHES. VIENTIANE POST REPORTER ASKED ABOUT INCIDENT INVOLVING AUGUST 5 ARREST OF TWO THAI EMBASSY MILITARY ATTACHES (VIENTIANE 5146, NOTAL). OUDAY, SPEAKING FROM NOTES, STATED THAT THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT TWO THAI POLICE OFFICIALS HAD BEEN ARRESTED. "THESE ARE THE FACTS:"

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A. " ON AUGUST 5, AT 1500 HOURS, THE JOINT POLICE ARRESTED TWO PEOPLE NAMED NAI BOUN AND NAI PRATHAI. THE FORMER HAD SEVERAL LAO IDENTITY CARDS. AT THE MOMENT THE TWO MEN WERE ARRESTED, THE POLICE FOUND IRREFUTABLE PROOF THAT THEY WERE ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE AND SABOTAGE. THEY HAD WEAPONS AND OTHER MATERIALS WHICH PROVED THAT THEY WERE PURSUING ACTIVITIES DETRIMENTAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE KINGDOM. THEY HAD SEVERAL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING

TO THE STRATEGIC SITUATION IN LAOS.

B. "YESTERDAY, AUGUST 6, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RECEIVED A NOTE FROM THE THAI AMBASSADOR STATING THAT THE TWO PERSONS WERE THAI OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. THEIR NAMES WERE LEUD VONGPHAT (ALIAS BOUN) AND PRASEUT THONGPEO (ALIAS PRATHAI)." (COMMENT: THEY ARE LISTED IN DIPLOMATIC LIST AS MAJOR LERT PUNGPAK AND CAPT. PRASERT TONGPEW.) "THE JOINT POLICE HAVE IDENTITY CARDS SHOWING BOUN AS A THAI CIVIL SERVANT. HE HAS SEVERAL THAI IDENTITY CARDS.

C. "THE JOINT POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING TO FIND OUT WHAT THE FACTS ARE; WHETHER THE TWO MEN THREATEN LAO SECURITY, IN WHICH CASE THEY WILL GO BEFORE A COURT. IF THEY ARE IN FACT THAI AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL DECLARE THEM PERSONA NON GRATA AND EXPELL THEM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VIENNA CONVENTION."

D. MARC BLOCH OF AP ASKED IF BOTH MEN HAD HAD SEVERAL IDENTITY CARDS. OUDAY WASN'T SURE. HE THOUGHT BOUN HAD SEVERAL. BLOCH ASKED WHERE THEY HAD BEEN ARRESTED -- AT A THAI EMBASSY RESIDENCE? OUDAY SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE HOUSE WAS PART OF THE THAI EMBASSY, BUT IT WAS BOUN'S HOUSE.
CHAPMAN

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